

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Halford; Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being anticipated by McLeod and Claims 3-6 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 3 has been canceled, without prejudice and thus Claims 1, 2 and 4-8 remain active.

Considering first on the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Halford, it is to be noted that Claim 1 has now been amended so as to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 3 and Claim 3 has been canceled, without prejudice. Correspondingly, Claim 7 has now been amended so as to incorporate the language of Claim 3 and is therefore submitted that each of Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 now merit an occasion of allowability.

Considering next then the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being anticipated by McLeod, it is again noted that in view of the incorporation of the limitations of Claim 3 and to each of Claims 1 and 7, each of Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants further note that minor amendments have been made to the claims and specification where necessary for closer compliance with U.S. patent practice and procedure.

In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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